

# Wing Tips

A photograph of three Air National Guard members in camouflage uniforms. Two are standing and looking at a document held by one of them, while a third member is kneeling in the foreground, also looking at the document. They are positioned against a brick wall. The title 'Wing Tips' is written in large, stylized orange letters in the top left corner.

**108th Wing -  
New Jersey Air National Guard**

May 2010  
Volume 11, Issue 4



# Commander's Column

## Keeping up the standards for inspections

By Col. Patrick Kennedy, 108th Maintenance Group Commander

The Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) last month was a great first step in what will be a very busy year as we prepare for our next round of inspections. As a wing we will take our Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) in June 2011. We will be partnering with another ANG unit, the 126th Air Refueling Wing, Scott Air Force Base, for this inspection. Planning meetings and discussions have already started between our two units to coordinate our efforts for the inspection. As part of the ORI the Inspector General (IG) will also evaluate our nuclear mission via a Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspection (NORI). However due to changes in the inspection concept for the NORI the IG has implemented a "no-notice" time frame to inspect this mission. This means we have the potential to be inspected as early as this fall.

As part of our plan to prepare for these inspections, the wing is scheduled for two more ORE's, both of which will be conducted with the 126th ARW. The exercises are scheduled in September of this year and then in March of 2011. We are putting together a training schedule that will address weak areas already identified in our previous ORE and capitalize on what we did

well. Additionally, we've put together an aggressive training plan that focuses on the NORI requirements. Since the window of opportunity for the "no-notice" inspection is rapidly approaching, all of us who are tasked in this critical mission must make a concentrated effort to ensure we are ready to shine at a moment's notice.

I challenge each organization to take a hard look at itself as we prepare for these inspections. The Wing's Exercise and Evaluation Team (EET) is tasked with critiquing our performance during the exercises using the Mission Essential Task List (METLs) criteria that the IG uses during the inspection. However, due to the size of our EET versus what the IG team will have, it is difficult for the EET to see every area the IG will see during our inspection. As a result, each unit owes it to itself, as well as the rest of the wing, to take a critical self-assessment to truly capture all the areas that require improvement. I highly encourage every unit member to become familiar with the METLs for their work center. Additionally, everyone should understand the IG ground rules for the inspections. Lastly, a review of our 2006 ORI report will give each unit a good starting point based on what was identified during the last inspection. No detail is too small in consideration for improvement.

Knowing your job, attention-to-



detail and having a positive attitude towards the training and the inspection will be the keys to our success. We are strong suited in all three of these key areas as evident by your performance during our last few inspections. OUTSTANDING is the goal for this inspection and, together, all of our efforts will be focused towards achieving that goal!



### On the Cover

**Checking it twice....** Members of the 108th Wing review the day-to-day training schedule in preparation for their training at the recent Operational Readiness Exercise held at Gulfport, Miss. Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Public Affairs Office.

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff.....108th Wing Commander  
Capt. April Kelly.....Public Affairs Officer  
Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison.....Public Affairs Office NCOIC  
Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez.....Public Affairs specialist  
Senior Master Sgt. Ray Knox, Staff Sgt. Eric Erbe and Senior Airman Adrian Rowan....Photographic Support

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# Odds & Ends...

## Armed Forces Day special at Waterpark

Sahara Sam's Oasis Indoor Water Park is holding their Armed Forces Day Salute to the Military on May 15 for military personnel and their families. Sahara Sam's is a free-standing indoor water park and entertainment complex located at 535 North Route 73, West Berlin, N.J.

The water park is offering half price admission to military members (with ID) and families at a cost of \$14.95 each. One dollar for the sale of each ticket will be donated to the National Guard State Family Readiness Council.

For more information on the park, visit [www.sahasams.com](http://www.sahasams.com).

## New Guard technician seminar, May 27

Hey – are you a new Army or Air Guard technician? Come to the “Getting Started on the Right Foot” seminar for new technicians on May 27 at the Joint Training and Training Development Center, Fort Dix. It will be held from 8 a.m.-noon.

For more information and registration, contact Lorraine Jamison at 609-562-0874 or [Lorraine.jamison@us.army.mil](mailto:Lorraine.jamison@us.army.mil).

## Guard pre-retirement seminar May 25-26

A technician pre-retirement seminar is scheduled for May 25-26 to be held at the Joint Training and Training Development Center, Fort Dix.

For more information and reservations, contact Lorraine Jamison at 609-562-0874 or [Lorraine.jamison@us.army.mil](mailto:Lorraine.jamison@us.army.mil).

## Join the Armed Forced Freedom Ride

Join the fourth annual Armed Forced Freedom Ride on May 16. The ride of nearly 1,000 motorcycle riders – all bikes are welcome – goes from Barb's Harley-Davidson in West Collingswood Heights at 10 a.m., up Route 295 to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The trip takes the riders down the flightline of McGuire and ends at Doughboy Field in the Dix area of the base for lunch and lots of activities.

You can register now at [www.ArmedForcesFreedomRide.org](http://www.ArmedForcesFreedomRide.org) or at Barb's Harley-Davidson. The first 200 registrants will receive a free T-shirt. Register by May 14.

Cost is \$30 per rider. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Burlington County Military Affairs Committee and the U.S. Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation of Philadelphia.

## DoD offers help to children of military

Department of Defense Education Activity's Educational Partnership proudly presents “Students at the Center,” an interactive educational resource for everyone involved in the education of the children of our military service members. It has a lot of information for families, military commands, school officials and more. Check out the Web site at <http://www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu/studentsAtTheCenter>.

## Junior enlisted team looking to grow

JOIN US.....

Do you like to have a good time, meet new people and make a difference? Here is your chance.

Join the Junior Enlisted Team (JET) of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of N.J., and help us develop the No. 1 team in N.J.

We are looking for junior Airmen between the grades of E1 through E6. We need you!

Come be a part of a fun conference, recruiting new members to join EANG and attend the conference, fundraising and more.

For information please contact Master Sgt. Sydney Fuchs at 609-562-0921 or via e-mail at [sydney.fuchs@ang.af.mil](mailto:sydney.fuchs@ang.af.mil) or e-mail Master Sgt. Vinnie Mazza at [vinnie.mazza@ang.af.mil](mailto:vinnie.mazza@ang.af.mil).

## Wing Tips submission deadlines

The deadline for June Wing Tips is June 1. Articles and photos should be e-mailed to [pa.108arw@ang.af.mil](mailto:pa.108arw@ang.af.mil). Please send the raw file. Articles must be in Microsoft Word format. Deadline for August Wing Tips is July 27, and the deadline for the September issue is Aug. 31.

Wing Tips is now accessible to unit members on the internet at <http://www.108arw.af.mil>.

Printed color copies will be distributed to buildings 3324, 3327, 3333, 3369 and 3390.

## On the Calendar

### May

May 15	Armed Forces Day
May 15-16	UTA
May 31	Memorial Day

### June

June 10-13	UTA
June 14	Flag Day
June 20	Father's Day
June 21	Summer begins

### July

July 4	Independence Day
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### August

Aug. 14-15	UTA
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# Ladder safety keeps you on your feet

*From the 108th Safety Office*

Spring is the time when everyone starts thinking about sprucing up the house and yard. Whether it is washing the windows or cleaning the gutters, one of the first tools that homeowners reach for is a ladder.

Knowing how to properly set up and use a ladder is an important first step in preventing injuries. Staying safe on a ladder can be made easier if you follow these tips developed by the Academy and American Ladder Institute. Soon, you will be on your way to successfully and safely completing your spring clean-up chores.

- ❑ Inspect the ladder. Check the ladder for any loose screws, hinges or rungs that you might not have fixed before you put it away for the winter. Clean off any mud or other liquids that might have accumulated on the ladder.
- ❑ Properly set up the ladder. Every ladder should be placed on a firm, level surface. The ground may be very bumpy because of the freezing and thawing during the winter. There also could be soft, muddy spots. Never place a ladder on ground that is uneven. The same is true for uneven flooring. And, remember to always engage the ladder locks or braces before you climb.
- ❑ Do not use a ladder as a seat between tasks. You might want to take a break from your chores, but never use a step ladder's top or pail shelf as a seat. It is not designed to carry your weight.
- ❑ Select the right ladder for the job. If you're washing windows inside the home, choose a step stool or utility ladder—they're often used when working at low or medium heights. Extension ladders are ideal for use

outdoors to reach high places like cleaning the gutters on the roof of a house.

- ❑ Move materials with caution when on the ladder. When you are cleaning out the garage or closet, be careful pushing or pulling anything from shelves while standing on a ladder. You could lose your balance and fall off.
- ❑ Always reposition the ladder closer to the work. Over reaching or leaning far to one side when you're on the ladder could make you lose your balance and fall.
- ❑ Be careful when climbing, get help if you need it. Be safe, ask someone to hold the ladder while you climb. Stay in the center of the ladder as you climb, and always hold the side rails with both hands.

Each year, more than 511,000 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms, doctors' offices, clinics and other medical settings because they failed to use ladders safely. Most injuries are cuts, bruises and fractured bones. However, more than 300 people die a year from injuries related to ladders—almost one death per day.

Source: *Academy and American Ladder Institute*



## Safety Tips



### *After serving the military, serve your community*

The Troops to Teachers program is designed to assist separating or retiring military personnel in pursuing a rewarding second career in public education (elementary, secondary or vocational) while also facilitating employment in public schools. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education and administered by the U.S. Department of Defense through DANTES, the long term goal of the program is to help improve American education by providing mature, self-disciplined, experienced and dedicated personnel for the nation's classrooms. New Jersey's Troops to Teachers office has counseled hundreds of interested military personnel, advising them on routes and programs to achieve full teacher certification in New Jersey, and referring them to school districts for employment.

To learn more, consider attending one of the upcoming program briefings at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Contact 800-680-0884 or via e-mail at [tttnj@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:tttnj@doe.state.nj.us) for briefing and program information. You can also visit the program on the web at: [www.nj.gov/education/ttnj](http://www.nj.gov/education/ttnj).



# Pro bono legal assistance available through MLAP

If you have a legal matter that cannot be handled by the Staff Judge Advocate, you may be eligible for a pro bono (free of charge) military legal assistance program (MLAP) administered by the New Jersey Bar Association (NJSBA), <http://www.njsba.com/>. This program provides legal representation to New Jersey residents who have served overseas as active duty members of reserve components of the armed forces after Sept. 11, 2001. Eligibility for the program is not income based. The program was created to meet the expected demand of military reservists in the current operational tempo and offers assistance in four primary areas:

- Family Law
- Employment Law
- Debtor-Creditor Law
- Medical Evaluation Boards (MEBs)

The program will refer military members who contact the NJSBA to volunteer attorneys qualified to assist them with their specific legal issues. For more information about the MLAP contact the OSJA, visit the NJSBA website, or contact:

D. Todd Sidor, Esq.,  
Director of Judicial Administration  
New Jersey State Bar Association  
One Constitution Square  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
732-249-2815 (fax)  
732-937-7544(phone)

[tsidor@njsba.com](mailto:tsidor@njsba.com)

## Army Soldier Show visiting New Jersey this year

If you are looking for some entertainment this year, you can find it at the U.S. Army Soldier Show which is making five stops in the area between now and November. Pick a date and come watch the music and stage show that the Soldiers give to their audience.

May 12 – 2 and 7:30 p.m. – Fort Hamilton (N.Y.) Post Theater. Free to everyone.

June 22 – 7 p.m. – Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, Timmerman Center, building 5441, 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

June 23 – 3 p.m. – Joint Base MDL, Timmerman Center  
Sept. 25 – time to be announced – Morris Knolls High School, 50 Knolls Drive, Rockaway (Picatinny Arsenal)

Nov. 4 – 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. – Expo Theater, building 1215, Avenue of Memories, Fort Monmouth

For more information on the show, visit <http://www.armymwr.com/recreation/entertainment/soldiershow/default.aspx>.

# Liberty Fund facts, information

By Lt. Col. Toni Waters

On behalf of Brig. Gen. Michael Cuniff and Col. Robert Meyer, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who graciously donated to the Liberty Fund in support of our Family Day and holiday parties for 2010. We TRULY, TRULY appreciate it! We receive between \$3,000-\$5,000 each year from our benefactors, the Burlington County Military Affairs Committee and the Freedom Alliance. We extend many heartfelt thanks to them as well! I'd also like to clarify some details about the Liberty Fund, as it is our primary Private Organization (PO) and our only avenue to support these worthwhile occasions.

Each year, we spend approximately \$10,000 on Family Day and another \$3,000 on the holiday party. Air Force regulations specifically prohibit us from using appropriated funds on any kind of Family Day. Therefore, we struggle to come up with ways to continue to provide our members and their families with a well-deserved event.

We cannot require anyone to donate; it must be voluntary, and we do not keep lists of those who do or do not donate. We can merely raise awareness. We are always open to new people/ideas/energy to help us meet our goals. If you have suggestions, please e-mail me at [toni.waters@ang.af.mil](mailto:toni.waters@ang.af.mil) or contact me at 609-754-5150.

THANKS AGAIN!

## Women veterans can find special health care in South Jersey

Women veterans are reminded of the services available at the Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) in South Jersey.

Vineland CBOC – Comprehensive care for women including primary care, gender specific care (gyn care), mental health, podiatry and eye care

Ventnor CBOC – Primary care for women (soon to offer gender-specific care after provider training), mental health, podiatry and eye care

Cape May CBOC – Primary care for women, mental health, podiatry and eye care

## Core Values

**Integrity first.**

**Service before self.**

**Excellence in all we do.**



# 108th Wing goes to Gulfport

*Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Public Affairs specialist*

Members from the 108th Wing out of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., departed on April 11 to Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center, Miss., to participate on an Organization Readiness Exercise there.

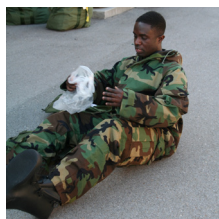
Simulating a deployment, more than 400 Airmen in full battle gear boarded KC-130s and KC-135s during the early morning hours after attending several briefings and checks.

While at the training center, Airmen were provided with refresher courses in unexploded ordnance recognition and process, mission oriented protective posture levels, M16 and M4 weapons orientation, and self aid buddy aid.

Thereafter, the wing began the exercise through several war scenarios conducive to the overall mission.

Some of the scenarios presented to the wing were rioting outside the base, UXOs around the perimeters and protests by local nationals.

The purpose of the training was to prepare the entire 108th Wing for the Organization Readiness Inspection scheduled for June 2011.









# NJ, Louisiana Guardsmen find cooperation brings results in Iraq

By Sgt. Tresa L. Allemang, 199th Garrison Command Public Affairs

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - For soldiers in an ever-changing combat environment, the only consistency is change itself. "Improvise, adapt and overcome," is a common military phrase, but more than just a phrase, it is the current way of life for U.S. service members.

A group of soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 199th Brigade Support Battalion not only implemented that phrase after their mission changed from convoy escort to force protection, but were recognized by another branch of service for their ability to improve their operation when they assumed the security responsibility of an entry control point during their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Air Force Lt. Col. Paul E. Novello, commander of the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, and his Airmen were so grateful when the Louisiana Guardsmen took over an ECP on Victory Base Complex, they presented the Soldiers with certificates for helping them complete projects that would otherwise be hindered due to the demands of contractors gaining access to the base.

To ensure the safety of the multinational coalition forces on the installation, all personnel must complete an in-depth identification and badging process before entering the complex. Since one of the gates secured by the

199th soldiers is primarily used by third country national contractors, the process can be very time-consuming.

According to the company's first sergeant, Scott Corley, the entrance control point for contractor convoys is only open for a pre-determined amount of time daily. Since the gate was bombarded by larger contractors with larger convoys, the smaller contractors have experienced a difficult time receiving supplies, therefore hindering the ability to complete projects as the U.S. sets the conditions for the responsible drawdown of its forces in Iraq.

"The soldiers not only recognized the issue, but also found a way to balance the flow of traffic between the contractors, large and small, to ensure that all received enough material to continue their projects at least until the next day whenever more supplies would arrive," the Pineville, La., resident explained.

"We have many construction projects at the Air Base," added Novella, of Trenton, N.J. "These guys teamed up and worked together to find a way to help ensure that the contractors delivering the materials had everything they needed to get through the gate as quickly as possible so that we could complete the necessary projects before the drawdown."

Novello explained that because of these soldiers' efforts, the Air Force was able to continue and complete a

project that had already been delayed more than three months due to material shortages caused by the issue that the Louisiana Guardsmen were able to combat.

The company, headquartered in Alexandria, La., was assigned to conduct convoy escort missions in Al Asad, when they were told that their mission had been changed. The new assignment was to conduct force protection at entry control points on the VBC.

"It is always difficult to accept change," said Corley. "These guys spent two months preparing to conduct convoy security and upon arrival, got hit with a force protection mission. Not only did they accept the challenge of something new, but they are excelling at it."

"It really says a lot anytime that there is inter-service recognition, but for my guys to only be on mission for about a month and to already be presented with such an honor is indicative of their hard work and ability to adapt to any given mission."

Corley explained that it takes attention to detail by the junior, and mid-grade noncommissioned officers, and the hard work of the soldiers to make things like this happen. "It is no accident," he said.

Mobilized and deployed to Iraq with the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 199th Brigade Support Battalion left home in January, and is expected to return back to Louisiana around the end of the year.

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## **Peirce College offers full scholarship to NJ Guard member**

Located in Philadelphia since 1865 for returning Civil War veterans, Peirce College has had a long tradition of serving the military. Peirce offers fully accredited practical degree programs in Business, Paralegal Studies and Information Technology.

In an effort to honor the contribution that members of the New Jersey National Guard have made, Peirce College is offering a full tuition renewable scholarship for a member of the New Jersey Army or Air National Guard. In order to apply for the scholarship, members of the NJNG must fill out

a scholarship application. The application may be obtained from the N.J. Army National Guard Education Office, 3650 Saylor's Pond Road, Fort Dix, or by contacting Capt. Benjamin Stoner at [Benjamin.stoner@us.army.mil](mailto:Benjamin.stoner@us.army.mil) or 609-562-0975. Applications may also be obtained by going to the Peirce College web site at [www.peirce.edu/military](http://www.peirce.edu/military).

The winner will be chosen based on recommendations, activities and academic credentials. Scholarship applications must be received by the N.J. Army National Guard Education Office by June 30, 2010.